

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /084 R

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R 200027Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHAN COUP - AMBASSADOR MALIKYAR APPROACH

1. AMBASSADOR MALIKYAR INFORMS US HE HAS RECEIVED TELEGRAPHIC INSTRUCTION TO SEEK U.S. RECOGNITION OF DAUD REGIME. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH DESK OFFICER, ASKED ADVICE ON WHOM HE SHOULD SEE IN DEPARTMENT TO MAKE REQUEST, AND MADE STRONG PRESENTATION ON VALUE OF U.S. CONTINUING GOOD RELATIONS WITH DAUD. MEETING SCHEDULED WITH AMBASSADOR MEYER JULY 20.

2. MALIKYAR OPENED BY NOTING COUP IS NOW "FAIT ACCOMPLI". HE THEN MADE LONG HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF DAUD'S RELATIONS WITH USSR. HE POINTED OUT THAT DAUD FIRST SOUGHT AID AND ARMS FROM U.S., THEN TURNED TO USSR WHEN FAILED WITH U.S. DIFFICULTIES WITH PAKISTAN WHICH WERE FORCED ON AFGHANISTAN MADE ARMS SUPPLY ESSENTIAL. DAUD THUS HAD ONLY RESPONDED TO EXTERNAL NEEDS AND WAS NEITHER COMMUNIST NOR PRO-SOVIET. HIS IMPRESSION OF U.S. WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXCELLENT, BASED ON HIS OFFICIAL VISIT WHICH HAD DEEPLY

IMPRESSED HIM.

3. IN EFFORT ESTABLISH DAUD CREDENTIALS AS DEMOCRAT, MALIKYAR POINTED TO DAUD DRAFT OF 1963 CONSTITUTION AND DAUD COMMENTS ON FINAL DRAFT AS APPROVED, BOTH OF WHICH ACCORDING TO MALIKYAR SHOW DAUD INTEREST IN

DEMOCRATIC REFORM.

4. MALIKYAR OFFERED OPINION THAT ZAHER SHAH WOULD NOT ATTEMPT COMEBACK. MALIKYAR HAS HEARD FROM HIM BOTH THROUGH HIS SON DAUD PUSHTUNYAR AND THROUGH AMBASSADOR ETEMADI IN ROME. BOTH QUOTED KING AS SAYING IT IS STILL TOO SOON FOR HIM TO COMMENT ON COUP, BUT INDICATED THAT KING IS STILL IN ROME AND IS LIKELY REMAIN THERE FOR TIME BEING. MALIKYAR SAID HE BELIEVED ZAHER SHAH WOULD NOT WISH BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BLOODSHED THAT WOULD RESULT FROM ATTEMPT TO REGAIN THRONE. FURTHERMORE ZAHER SHAH HAD TO LOOK AT BROADER SCENE; CIVIL WAR IN AFGHANISTAN COULD INVOLVE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

5. MALIKYAR HAS ALSO CONTACTED AMBASSADOR POPAL IN ISLAMABAD BY PHONE. POPAL EXPRESSED SOME OPTIMISM THAT GOP REACTION TO DAUD HAS SO FAR BEEN CORRECT, AND POPAL BELIEVES GOP WILL CONTINUE TO BE CAUTIOUS.
RUSH

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